

BYRD HONORS SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

Goal: To promote student excellence and achievement and to recognize exceptionally able students who show promise of continued excellence.

Relationship of Program to Volume 1, Department-wide Objectives: This objective supports Strategic Plan Goal 3, which focuses on ensuring that all students motivated and academically ready to attend postsecondary education have the financial resources and support services needed to do so.

FY 2000—\$39,859,000

FY 2001—\$41,001,000 (Requested budget)

OBJECTIVE 1: BYRD SCHOLARS WILL SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT HIGH RATES.

Indicator 1.1 Completion of postsecondary education programs: Ninety percent or more of Byrd scholars will successfully complete postsecondary education programs within 4 years.

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Percentage of Byrd scholars graduating within 4 years or receiving a scholarship for 4 years			Status: Target met. Explanation: States reported in 1999 that 96 percent of students receiving a Byrd scholarship in 1995 either graduated or received 4 years of funding, indicating that they were on track to graduate.	Source: Performance report. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next Update:</i> 2000. Validation Procedure: Data supplied by states, who certify the accuracy of the data. Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Data are based on grantee reports of varying quality and accuracy on the number of Byrd Scholars graduating and/or receiving 4 years of Byrd funding. Byrd Scholars may not have received 4 years of Byrd funding for a variety of reasons other than failure to complete an academic program, including early graduation or no unmet financial need. Future performance reports will request grantees to report the exact number of graduating Byrd Scholars; however, it appears likely that many states are unable to collect these data.
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
1997:	85%			
1998:	90%			
1999:	96%	90% or higher		
2000:		90% or higher		
2001:		90% or higher		

KEY STRATEGIES

Strategies Continued from 1999

None.

New or Strengthened Strategies

- ❖ Developed revised performance report to collect all information needed to measure program outcomes.
- ❖ Communicate with state agencies at the beginning of the school year and mid-year to highlight the importance of awarding all funds.

HOW THIS PROGRAM COORDINATES WITH OTHER FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

- ❖ In order to gather and maintain accurate records showing college entry levels and completion rates for Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship recipients, the Byrd Program office will work in tandem with the state educational agency representatives to develop a more frequent communication strategy. The Byrd Program office will also serve as a link to other OPE offices that can be of assistance to the states for this purpose.

CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVING PROGRAM GOAL

- ❖ Encouraging states to commit resources (other than grant dollars) for the collection of data to track participants.
- ❖ Consistency and accuracy of reported data.
- ❖ Resources to analyze and interpret statistical data as collected.

INDICATOR CHANGES**From FY 1999 Annual Plan (two years old)**Adjusted

- ❖ Replaced indicators stating that 100 percent of scholarship funds will be awarded and reallocated with indicator measuring academic outcomes for scholarship recipients.

Dropped—None.

From FY 2000 Annual Plan (last year's)

Adjusted—None.

Dropped—None.

New—None.